

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 11, 2005, claims 1-4, 9, 17, and 21 were rejected. By this amendment, claims 1-4, 9, 17, and 21 are requested to be canceled without prejudice. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, while the Examiner noted they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for finding this allowable subject matter in these claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 5 and 10 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants note that claims 6 and 8 depend from a base claim rewritten to overcome the objection, so that claims 6 and 8 should therefore be allowed.

For at least the stated reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 5, 6, 8, and 10.

Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 7, 11-16, 18, and 19.

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PATENT


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 5, 6, 8, and 10 be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1792 if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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